

Remarks

The Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 27, 2003 did not contain a PTO-1449 form for the reason that, at the time, Applicant was not aware of any relevant prior art which would be citable pursuant to the requirements of 37 CFR §1.56. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the submitted IDS complies with the relevant statutory requirements.

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 4 and 7 have been cancelled. Claims 1-3, 5, and 6 remain in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims as now presented is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has indicated that originally filed Claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As such, Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of originally filed Claim 4. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that Claim 1 as now amended, as well as the claims depending therefrom, are allowable on the merits. An early allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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